

# Kassonke language

The **Kassonke** (Khassonké) language, *Xaasongaxango* (*Xasonga*), or **Western Maninka** (Malinke), is a Manding language spoken by the Khassonké of western Mali and by the Malinke of eastern Senegal. Kassonke is a national language in Mali. Western and Eastern Maninka are 90% mutually intelligible, though distinct from the Mandinka (Malinke) of southern Senegal, which is a national language there.

## See also

- Bafoulabé
- Kayes

## References

1. Kassonke (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/kao/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015) Western Malinke (Malinka) (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/mlq/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)

2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Xaasongaxango" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/anguoid/id/xaas1235>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.

3. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Western Maninkakan" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/anguoid/id/west2500>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.

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▪ Sullivan, Terrence D.. 2004. "A preliminary report of existing information on the Manding languages of West Africa: summary and suggestions for future research." SIL Electronic Survey Reports 2004-005: 34 p. <http://www.sil.org/silesr/abstract.asp?ref=2004-005>

Kassonke	
Western Maninka	
<i>Xaasongaxango</i>	
<b>Native to</b>	Mali
<b>Ethnicity</b>	Kassonke, Malinke
<b>Native speakers</b>	1.6 million (2006–2012) <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>Language family</b>	Niger–Congo <div>▪ Mande<div>▪ Western Mande<div>▪ ...<div>▪ Manding<div>▪ West Manding<div>▪ <b>Kassonke</b></div></div></div></div></div></div>
Official status	
<b>Recognised minority language in</b>	Mali
Language codes	
<b>ISO 639-3</b>	Either: <div>kao – Kassonke</div> <div>mlq – Western Malinke (Malinka)</div>
<b>Glottolog</b>	xaas1235 ( <a href="http://glottolog.org/resource/anguoid/id/xaas1235">http://glottolog.org/resource/anguoid/id/xaas1235</a> ) <div>Xaasongaxango<sup>[2]</sup></div> <div>west2500 (<a href="http://glottolog.org/resource/anguoid/id/west2500">http://glottolog.org/resource/anguoid/id/west2500</a>)<div>Western Maninkakan<sup>[3]</sup></div></div>

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